

REMARKS

In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, reconsideration of the rejections contained in the Office Action of January 14, 2005 is respectfully requested.

On page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claims 3-7 were rejected as being unpatentable over the Applicants' Admitted Prior Art (AAPA) in view of the Miyashita reference (U.S.P. 5,325,573). However, on page 1 of the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claims 3 and 4 were rejected, and that claims 5-11 were objected to. Furthermore, on page 4 of the Office Action, the Examiner again indicated that claims 5-11 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but contain allowable subject matter. Thus, it is the Applicants understanding that page 2 of the Office Action contains a typographical error, and that the Examiner intended to reject claims 3 and 4 as being unpatentable over the prior art, rather than claims 3-7. In view of this understanding, the claims have now been amended as indicated above and discussed below.

Independent claim 3 has now been amended so as to incorporate the subject matter of allowable dependent claim 7, and dependent claim 7 has been cancelled. In addition, allowable dependent claim 8 has been amended so as to be placed in independent form including all of the subject matter of original base independent claim 3. Furthermore, allowable dependent claim 10 has also now been amended so as to be placed in independent form including all of the subject matter of original base independent claim 3. Finally, non-elected claims 1, 2, and 12 have been cancelled. Therefore, in view of the above amendments and the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter, it is respectfully submitted that amended independent claims 3, 8, and 10, and the claims that dependent therefrom, are now in condition for allowance.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance. However, if the Examiner should have any comments or suggestions to help speed the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is requested to contact the Applicant's undersigned representative.

Respectfully submitted,

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